

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 05479 030651Z
ACTION EA-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, JA
SUBJECT: NIKKYOSO PRESIDENT MAKIEDA TO RUN FOR
PRESIDENCY OF WCOTP

1. DURING DINNER HE HOSTED FOR VISITING AMERICAN
FEDERATION OF TEACHERS VICE PRESIDENT SANDRA FELDMAN
MARCH 31, NIKKYOSO PRESIDENT MAKIEDA (WHO IS ALSO HEAD
OF SOHYO) SAID THAT HE INTENDED TO RUN FOR THE
PRESIDENCY OF THE WORLD CONFEDERATION OF ORGANIZATIONS
OF THE TEACHING PROFESSION (WCOTP) AT ITS NEXT CON-
VENTION THIS SUMMER AND THAT, GIVEN INFORMAL PROMISES
OF SUPPORT HE HAD ALREADY RECEIVED FROM OTHER ASIAN
COUNTRIES, HE WAS VIRTUALLY ASSURED OF ELECTION. MAKIEDA
SAID THAT AS WCOTP PRESIDENT HE HOPED TO ENCOURAGE
ITS MERGER WITH THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF FREE
TEACHERS UNIONS (IFFTU) WITH WHICH IT SHARED COMMON
PRINCIPLES, INCLUDING OPPOSITION TO COMMUNIST DOMINATION
OF THE TEACHING PROFESSION. MAKIEDA ADMITTED THAT THE
TWO ORGANIZATIONS HAD AN IMPORTANT DIFFERENCE OVER
TACTICS; THE IFFTU WAS ABSOLUTELY OPPOSED TO ANY CONTACT
WHATSOEVER WITH TEACHERS ORGANIZATIONS IN COMMUNIST
COUNTRIES, WHILE THE WCOTP BELIEVED THAT IT WAS USEFUL
TO MAINTAIN A DIALOGUE WITH COMMUNIST TEACHERS ON
PEDAGOGICAL ISSUES.

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2. MAKIEDA SAID THAT IN ORDER TO INCREASE HIS ABILITY
TO PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN FACILITATING EFFORTS TO MERGE
THE TWO INTERNATIONAL BODIES, HE WAS DETERMINED TO BRING
NIKKYOSO INTO THE IFFTU. MS. FELDMAN NOTED THAT NIKKYOSO
HAD BEEN CONSIDERING IFFTU AFFILIATION FOR A CONSIDERABLE
PERIOD OF TIME AND THAT THERE SEEMED TO BE LITTLE

FORWARD MOVEMENT. MAKIEDA ADMITTED THAT WHILE HIS
EXECUTIVE BOARD WAS COMMITTED TO IFFTU MEMBERSHIP, SOME
ELEMENTS IN NIKKYOSO'S RANK AND FILE, PARTICULARLY JAPAN
COMMUNIST PARTY MEMBERS, HAD SO FAR SUCCESSFULLY BLOCKED
THE NECESSARY JAPANESE-STYLE CONSENSUS. MAKIEDA SAID
THE PERIOD FOR TALK WAS NOW ENDING AND PREDICTED THAT
NIKKYOSO WOULD AFFILIATE WITH THE IFFTU BY 1980.
MANSFIELD

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